

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2010

Immediately Following Previous Committees or

7:15 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Finance Committee

*David L. Samuel, Chair
Beryl D. Anderson
Thomas C. Evers
Shane Ewald
Thomas R. Kneeland
John R. McAlister
Nancy R. McGregor*

Members Absent: Thomas C. Evers

Members Present: David L. Samuel, Shane W. Ewald, Thomas R. Kneeland, John McAlister, Nancy R. McGregor and Beryl D. Anderson

Additional Attendees

Karl Wetherholt; Mike Andrako; Angel Mumma; Jennifer Teal; Chief Murphy; Terry Emery; Dottie Franey; Brandi Braun; Sadicka White; Tom Weber; Donna Jernigan; Brian Hoyt; Mayor Stinchcomb; Press

FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEES:

Appointment Process

Samuel called the meeting for February 22 to order.

Samuel said the first item is the appointment process for an empty Council seat should that occur. Weber said I had agreed to check on this; if someone is appointed to Council this spring, the next election in which this person would have to run is the next Council elections normal time in 2011; I called Mike Stinziano and sent him the information on what our Charter said, and what questions we had; he followed up with a letter from the County Prosecutor as well; his interpretation is the next election where this appointee would be put on the ballot is in 2011; I understand why the question was asked; that interpretation makes reference to non municipal offices held in even years; we got the letter and I checked with the prosecutor and my view has been confirmed; an appointee would not have to run until 2011. McAlister said maybe Kneeland remembers when James-Arnold resigned if that was an odd year; Shepherd was appointed then. Mayor said I remember and it was the same year as a Council election. Ewald said I had talked to Sherwood and we looked that up and it was the same as an election year. Mayor said I can't recall during my time in office where we have had an election in an even year. White said what about when Payne resigned. Mayor said she didn't run. Kneeland said we will proceed to carry out the appointment process then as soon as we get notification of the vacancy. Ewald said the Council person intending to resign has not submitted a resignation letter so right now we have no action. Kneeland said it will be forthcoming; we will have Sherwood do a newspaper ad and solicit resumes; and then in the week after it is in the paper, we can sort them and make decisions as planned. Ewald said I have talked to Weber and reached out to Council members; we are being told by the Board of Elections to use the 2011 interpretation but I still believe our Charter is in conflict with the Board of Elections decision even though we have proper documentation going forward if anyone would question if this is the proper procedure to follow. Mayor said this could be something the Charter Review Commission could look into in 2011; they are required to be assembled and review every 5 years; they could look at changing the wording on Gahanna Municipal Election. Anderson said Kneeland said we would review resume results the week after the ad; I think we will need more than a week to advertise and collect information on interested participants. Kneeland said stories about the resignation have been in the paper twice already and we have 30 days to appoint someone; I saw that as logically giving us time to interview and a week to digest it and then make the appointment by the last meeting of the month. McGregor said if we have 30 days after the meeting; that would give us an extra 2 weeks. Anderson said my point was people need to have more time for the formal process; and we should let Evers know that he is near the time limit. Kneeland said for the Charter

change, Council can look at this year; we can tag along and not have the extra expense and not wait on Charter Review. Ewald said I think we should move forward since we have an interpretation and a decision for the process; I still think it is the wrong decision but I will support it; the City is in a position where we are acting what we believe to be properly; if someone challenges that, given that we have the interpretation, and it is supported by the Board of Elections, we should be fine.

CURC Board Appointment

Samuel said we have 2 CURC Board appointments we should be considering; the current term for Richard Peck expires at the end of 2010; and Anderson's term expired December of 2009. Kneeland said the new 3 year term to replace Anderson needs to be done by Council right away; leases in the industrial zone will require CURC Board action so we need to make the appointment and also to have it with waiver and emergency; we can bring it back for discussion; do we have any names. Anderson said I would be glad to continue to serve. Mayor said but can you serve or does your place on Council create a conflict of interest. Weber said it does not. Jernigan said the appointment does have to have an ordinance.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Waiver of 2nd Reading, Consent Agenda, Emergency Language.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund-Supplemental-VRG

Samuel said we are adding an item from the Parks and Development Committee so all members of Council can discuss the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Supplemental-VRG. Collins said this is item 3 on the Parks report; our request is for a supplemental of \$56,140.00 for use to pay a VRG invoice for closing fees and other services involved in the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant; the email question submitted to me asked when we knew about this request and the requirement for waiver; I did respond to the email but it was close to 5 P.M. so it was probably not read by Council; when we applied for the grant, we knew these costs were associated with it and we submitted them as part of grant; until January of this year, I thought payment would go directly from OPWC to VRG; then an audit of the application pointed out that was not the most effective way; so to simplify and speed up the process, after I talked to the Mayor, I decided to ask for the supplemental; this was not spelled out in earlier reports and I apologize for that, but this money was always in the plan; the request for a waiver is not a requirement; it is just VRG has been waiting for payment for a number of months; the funds are accounted for and are being reimbursed by the grant. Kneeland said I would like for you to reiterate the importance of this to the overall plan for the Central Park Greenway. Collins said there are many benefits of acquiring this land; it provides an environmental presence and protects the setbacks along the creek from commercial development; we will connect the trail to the Tech Center Drive bikeway; we will be coming forward with those construction aspects. Kneeland said I think you realize any supplementals will be looked at closely, but this is a key in the preservation of the Big Walnut; this is a final piece in changing a brown field to a green field. McAlister said so we are talking about the big ravine on the north side of the cleared land; who owns this. Collins said we do. White said an important thing to remember is that we pursued this as a site that should be preserved; previously the property owner could do what they wanted like cut down woods; we did not want this to occur so we went to our State Rep. who investigated and we got the grant to maintain the quality of the land; makes the land that much more valuable; land is ready for development. Samuel said define what VRG is to this transaction. White said they are the land holder; COCIC owns the land fill; so they actually own part of the land too; mostly the bank owns it but VRG is the primary land holder. McAlister said so we are getting a \$56,000 bill after we got awarded the 1 million dollar grant; so what are we voting on. Collins said we have to front the money

to get paid from OPWC.

Ewald asked if Development had the final result from the Junkerman tract. White said it is 29 acres due the end of the year; those results would be included in our quarterly update.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Waiver of 2nd Reading, Consent Agenda, Emergency Language.

2009-0051

Recommendation from Civil Service Commission for approval of revised Rules & Regulations dated December 1, 2009.

Kneeland said the discussion on Civil Service Rules and the recommendations from the Civil Service Commission have been to committee twice; everyone is in receipt of notes from the Mayor; I am recommending we postpone discussion again for a month to a date certain in March.

Recommendation: Return to Finance Committee Meeting March 22.

Held in Committee

Della Brandenberger, Reporting